

Dove Lake and Cradle Mountain the day before departure





Bus trip from Burnie to Cradle Mountain Lodge

Operation Ossa: Log Book

Day 1: 27.12.2000

Snow at Cosy Cabins, 2 kms before Cradle Mountain Lodge. Shuttle bus at 8 a.m. Couple from Perth. Hugh purchased beanie at Visitor Centre. signed Walker Registration at 0830 and started walking, board walk to start from near Waldheim. arrive Marions Lookout at 10.30 a.m. Blizzard conditions with some sunshine breaking through occasionally. arrived Kitchen Hut at 11.30. Cold, heavy snow, overcast but walking well. Group of 4 from Newtown occupying hut overnight had taken wrong track. Mistook wallaby that entered hut for large rat. Arrived Waterfall Hut at 1300. Track warden gave us instruction on fire, gas stove, . Newtown group arrived after a time.. Has brew of tea on Trangia, took off boots and socks. Weather improved to allow photograph of Hugh against Barn Bluff. Cradle Mountain not visible all day due to low cloud. Departed hut at 1400. time to Windermere Hut expected to be 2-3 hours. Arrived 1607. Walking well!!. Hut occupied by about 8 people.. Gas fire. 4 from Newtown arrived at 1700.. Heavy blizzard on way. Track very wet and slushy.. Across Cradle Plateau visibility so poor we would have been lost without snow poles. Supper of soup and Rich Beef/Mushroom Rice.

Day 2: 28.12.2000

Woke 0530. Breakfast of porridge in hut at 0630. Depart at 0730 for Pelion Hut anticipated time 5 hours. Heavy snow overnight. 2 grey kangaroos jumping through snow as we left. Visibility nil until we arrive at Frog Flats at which point sunshine and great views of Pelion West. arrive Pelion Hut 12.19. Walking well. Had lunch and a cup of tea. weather changeable. Decided to press onto Kia Ora hut. 2 groups left before us, one was Stephen and Christine, the other the two bush chicks. we left at 13.45 as weather seemed to have improved. Passed the 2 bush chicks on the slope up to Pelion Gap apparently negotiating over a bottle of fuel with a chap passing the other way. Snow at Pelion Gap but we decided to camp alongside the sign indicating the Mount Ossa track. as the bush chicks passed us jokingly said we were turning back to Waldheim. The large one said "You're shitting me aren't yer?!!!". Weather closed in as the tent went up. one other walker passed and marched on. Not too cold, sleet but not freezing.. Had Chicken noodles followed by cheesy rice thing. Wait to see weather in morning before deciding on Ossa. Highlights of day pademelons in woods near Frog Flats.

Day 3: 29.12.2000 Mt. Ossa Day

Strong wind and sleet during night. very damp. Some danger of losing the tent. Woke Hugh several times to hold tent. We had to find headlight. Fly sheet came adrift and I had to exit tent in bare feet in snow to re-rig it. Weather was so bad when I went to sleep at 4 a.m. that I presumed we would not get a shot a Mt. Ossa. Woke 0600 to find weather dry, high cloud and sunshine. Broke camp. Sleeping bags and tent sodden. Breakfast of porridge but Graham made it too dilute and we had to drink it!.. Left Pelion Gap at 0830 for Mt. Ossa. Heavy cloud on the summit.. Told Hugh that because only 2 of us and being wracked by guilt leading him

into perilous situation, I reserved the right to abort climb in my absolute discretion. Hid one pack in bushes below Mt. Doris. Heavy snow on ground.. Hugh having to break the trail, as we reached the final climb told Hugh no go with the heavy snow making the going too difficult. We turned back. after about 300 metres, Ran into Stephen and Christine having walked up from Kia Ora Hut that morning and said we would like to walk with them. Hugh said there is a God!! Heavy going up the mountain. Through Chimney very slippery. Increasingly affected by cloud, visibility reduced as a result to 15 metres. Lost contact with snow poles.. Another group of 5 joins us.. Told Hugh we should turn back at a particularly steep point as I was concerned about getting down again safely. He said we should just press on.. I said it was just too dangerous. @ of the second group turned back. Rob, the geologist from Perth and now braking the trails said we should just press onto the next block of rock whereupon he relocated the snow poles. Again heavy going in snow up to our thighs. Track flattened out and we were on the summit by 11.20. 7 people. Quick photos and depart.. Better progress down in snow.. Picked up packs and arrived Pelion Gap 1300. Groups having gone their separate ways as we got onto Mount Doris. Weather changeable but pressed straight onto Kia Ora Hut and arrived 2.15. Luxury hut by standard of the others, has balcony. Good sunshine now. Able to dry all clothes and sleeping bags. Socks would not dry but hung them on cord in hut overnight which did the trick.. 3 cups of tea to celebrate. Onto Narcissus Hut tomorrow.. This hit in great surroundings. Views of Tasmanian mountains on all sides, perhaps it is just the sunshine making me feel good.

Day 4 30.12.2000

Awoke 0500, up at 0530, wonderful morning, cold and clear. Made porridge, woke Hugh at 0630 and we ate together, About 10 people in the hut. Lots of space but Argentinean girl chose to sleep right along side me! Departed for Windy Ridge hut at 0715. Arrived 0930. Stopped for tea for an hour. Weather clear, sunny , cool, great walking weather. Left for Narcissus Hut and arrived 12.30. Hut empty. Couple of day trippers in the area. Stopped for tea for 45 minutes. Decided to push onto Cynthia Bay, NPWS estimate is 5 hours. Left at 1330, arrived Cynthia Bay 1832. Thus say total of 35 kilometres in the one day. Stopped at Echo Point for 15 minutes and at 1700. lovely walk with great views across Lake St. Clair. Many fallen trees delayed progress a bit. Very sore feet on arrival. No accommodation at Cynthia Bay, only room is a double at Derwent Bridge Wilderness Hotel up the road about 5 kms at $85 per night. we'll take it. Katrina the receptionist from Queens land will take us. Check in at 7.15 but cook goes home so last orders for dinner by 2015. Quick shower. Smell in room awful from dirty washing and rotten wet feet. Hugh has Madras curry and Trout for me which is partially uncooked.. A glass of chardonnay is fantastic and as I say an improvement upon Narcissus River water. Phoned PCM. Will try to get to Launceston by bus tomorrow.

.

GHM.
Thursday, 4 January 2001.



OVERLAND TRACK

-AUSTRALIA-



stage start
Cradle Mountain Visitor Centre
C132
Ronny Creek
Dove Lake
Kitchen Hut
Cradle Mountain
Cirque emergency shelter
Waterfall Valley Huts
Barn Bluff
Lake Will
Windermere Hut
Mt Oakleigh
Old Pelion Hut
New Pelion Hut
CRADLE MOUNTAIN – LAKE ST CLAIR NATIONAL PARK
Mt Pelion East
Mt Ossa
Kia Ora Hut
Du Cane Hut
The Acropolis
Bert Nichols Hut
Labyrinth Lookout
WALLS OF JERUSALEM NATIONAL PARK
Narcissus Hut
Echo Point Hut
Lake St Clair
Cynthia Bay
Derwent Bridge
Lake Rowallan
C171
A10
N
0
5
10
km



Awaking to overnight snow on the day of the walk



Departure in snow storm



Arriving at Kitchen Hut


Arriving at Windermere Hut



Camp site at Pelion Gap 1



Camp site at Pelion Gap 2



Mount Ossa approach 1



Mount Ossa approach 2



Mount Ossa approach 3



Mount Ossa : The Chimney



Mount Ossa Summit Group 1



Mount Ossa Summit Group 2



Mount Pelion East


Load re-pack.


Approaching Narcissus River


Narcissus River Bridge.



Derwent Bridge Wilderness Hotel



Bus to Launceston



Arriving Launceston.



Unravelling at Elphin Gardens, Launceston.

COMMONWEALTH BANK
EFTPOS
ELPHIN GARDENS
LAUNCESTON TAS
311000067064505
TERMINAL:87064500

CARD NO.:
4557012000394258
EXPIRY DATE: 06/01
CREDIT 004418
PURCH 176.00
TOTAL AUD 176.00

01/01/01 12:31:26
VISA GOLDCARD
APPROVED 08

ELPHIN GARDENS

Luxury Suites & Apartments

LIDO INVESTMENT TRUST
ABN 53 997 992 483

47 - 49 Elphin Road
Launceston
Tasmania 7250
Telephone (03) 63 34 5988
Facsimile (03) 63 34 5588
Web:www.elphingardens.com.au
Email: info@elphingardens.com.au

Date: 1/1/01.

TAX INVOICE

Invoice No:

GUEST TAX INVOICE:

Guest's Name: MR MILLAR / MR CHAFFEY. MILLAR

Date In: 31/12/00 Date Out: 1/1/01.

Nights: 1

Accommodation Rate p/night $ 176.00

Accommodation	176.00
Telephone	
Mini Bar	
Extras	
Total	176.00
Tax Summary	
Taxable Sales	160.00
GST 10%	16.00

PAID

Please note: This is a 7 day Account